



Chester Community Charter School  
High School Financial Aid/ Scholarship Packet

2023-2024

# Archdioceses Financial Aid

- **Tuition-Based Aid Program: [FACTS GRANT AND AID Link](#)**

AOP schools offer needs-based assistance.

Aid for the 2023-2024 school year will be processed by [FACTS GRANT AND AID](#). The application will open on October 1.

All need-based awards will be contingent on the reception of the most recent tax return.

Income guidelines for EITC/OSTC programs are as follows:

- Household income: \$105,183
- One dependent: \$123,697
- Two dependents: \$142,211
- Three dependents: \$160,725
- Add \$18,514 for each additional dependent

- Educational Improvement Tax Credit

The EITC grant allows businesses to contribute to education and receive a tax credit for their contributions. These funds are available to schools when businesses register with the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development for tax credits under this program.

In order to receive the EITC grant, students must be:

- elementary or high school-aged
- a resident of Pennsylvania and enrolled in a Pennsylvania school
- a member of a household with an annual household income of no more than \$105,183 (except that an additional income allowance of \$18,514 is permitted for the student and for each other dependent as defined by the IRS living within the same household)

For more information about EITC availability, contact the administration of the AOP school you plan to attend.

- **Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit:**

The OSTC provides tax credits to eligible businesses contributing to tuition assistance in the form of scholarships.

In order to receive an OSTC grant, students must:

- live within the attendance boundaries of a low-achieving school as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education
- be a member of a household with an annual household income of no more than \$105,183 (plus \$18,514 for each dependent member of the household)

# School-Based Financial Aid

Most schools offer their own financial aid and tuition assistance.

There are two primary types of financial aid: **need-based financial aid** and **merit-based scholarships**.

- **Need-based financial aid** is reserved for students who come from lower-income households. Catholic high schools in Philadelphia, for instance, have multiple need-based financial aid programs.
- Independent private schools often have their own need-based financial aid programs as well. This varies depending on the school— and it's not directly related to the school's price tag. A school that costs \$40,000 may offer full tuition to a number of students or have a special fund specifically for low-income families, while one that has a \$20,000 tuition cost may be unable to offer any financial aid.
- In most cases, determining whether a school is affordable for your family will require speaking with the school directly.
- **Merit-based scholarships** are based on previous academic achievement or civic involvement. A student must apply or be nominated to be considered for these awards. For many Catholic schools, these requirements include a high GPA or a certain score on a standardized test
- Independent private schools set their own criteria for scholarships. They may require essays, transcripts, or hold a selective interview process.

Please note that schools have a limited supply of financial aid that they give out each year— so it's **extremely important** to apply for financial aid as early as possible. In fact, it's usually a good idea to submit your financial aid application at the same time as the school's admission application

# Outside-Scholarships

There are several local organizations that provide financial support for children from low-income families.

## **Children's Scholarship Fund**

- The Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia (CSFP) offers four-year scholarships for students in grades K-8 who wish to enroll in a private school. As the largest provider of K-8th grade scholarships in Pennsylvania, CSFP partners with over 185 diverse participating schools (many of whom are not associated with any religion) in the Philadelphia area, offering your family an opportunity to select a school that best fits your child(ren)'s needs.
- These scholarships make tuition more manageable; they are partial and dependent on your family's income. The maximum scholarship is \$2,500.
- **The application is available online** at the Children's Scholarship Fund.
- Every parent who completes and submits the application by the deadline will be entered into CSFP's random lottery.

## **BLOCS, or Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools**

- BLOCS is an organization that provides partial scholarships to Philadelphia students interested in attending Catholic schools.
- To apply, a family must fulfill income requirements. A family with one dependent must have an annual income of less than \$90,000. For each additional dependent, you can make an additional \$15,000 per child.

## **CEO America Lehigh Valley**

**Qualifications:** The student must be currently enrolled in a public school and looking to enroll in a private school; total parent income does not exceed \$60,000 annually; the student currently resides in Pennsylvania; the student is enrolled in grades 2-11; parent must submit documentation of all income sources.

## **Ellis Trust for Girls**

**Qualifications:** The student lives in Philadelphia; the student lives in a household where one or both parent is absent, or mentally or physically disabled; the student is eligible for reduced-price lunch; have grades "C" or better in major subjects; the student can prove dependency status; students' family does not own property other than their primary home.

## **The Howley Foundation**

**Qualifications:** Scholarships can be redeemed at Bonner Prendergast Catholic High School, Cristo Rey High School, Merion Mercy Academy, Roman Catholic High School, Saint John Neumann and Maria Goretti Catholic High School, St. Joseph's Preparatory School, and West Catholic Preparatory High School. Students apply for the scholarship through the school. Candidates must demonstrate significant financial need as defined by the financial aid evaluation process currently used by the school; have scores on admissions test/standardized tests to indicate a high probability of success; demonstrate a level of academic achievement; exhibit a high probability of ongoing participation and meaningful contribution in at least one extracurricular activity; demonstrate strong evidence of the family support and the cultural attributes necessary to succeed.

To apply, speak with your school directly.

### **John T. Mitchell Memorial Trust Scholarship**

**Amount:** One (or more) one-year scholarships up to \$2,000

**Qualifications:** African American Catholic; at least a cumulative B (or the numerical equivalent) average; financial need as determined by a SmartAid application; between 40 and 80 hours of community service per academic year; attend or desire to attend a Roman Catholic High School.

### **Maguire Scholars Program**

**Amount:** \$3,000 per year

**Qualifications:** financial need; the family has applied for SmartAid; academic ability; personal growth and development; commitment to community service and extracurricular activity; the candidate is attending or going to attend one of the 17 Archdiocese high schools of Philadelphia.

### **Officer Daniel Boyle Scholarship Fund**

**Qualifications:** Students attending or planning to attend Archbishop Ryan High School, Monsignor Bonner, Cardinal O'Hara, Cardinal Brennan, and Roman Catholic High School

### **St. Thomas More Alumni Association**

**Qualifications:** To be considered, nominees must be related to or recommended by an STM Alumnus; plan on attending a catholic high school for the 2020-21 academic year; be active in school, sports, or church activities; have a good academic record; be involved in community serve.

## **Young Scholars Program**

**Qualifications:** Entering 8th grade in the fall of 2021; earned all or mostly A's since the 6th grade; demonstrated financial need.

Other local scholarships exist as well